

Message Text

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47/53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 M-03

A-01 SY-07 OPR-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01

RSR-01 SSO-00 /116 W

----- 072808

P 141230 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1666

DIA

INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2283

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USCINCEUR

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

USIA WASHDC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - L I N E S T O O L O N G I N O R I G I N A L C O P Y

DEPT ALSO PASS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS; PFOR, PINS, US, LE

SUBJECT: " BIG LIE" GATHERS MORE STEAM

1. SUMMARY: FEDAYEEN DISSEMINATION OF " BIG LIE" CONTINUES,
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WITH ADDITION OF NEW FABRICATIONS RE US COMPLICITY IN APR 10 ISRAELI RAID TO THOSE ALREADY CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD. LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT OF US SIDE OF STORY APPEARS RELATIVELY THIN, AND WE GATHER MOST NON- LEFTIST BEIRUT PAPERS ARE NOT ANXIOUS RISK FEDAYEEN WRATH BY PUBLICIZING IT MORE FULLY. END SUMMARY.

2. APR 13 PLO (Wafa) DAILY BULLETIN CARRIED REPORT, PICKED UP BY MOST LEFTIST PAPERS HERE APR 14, THAT US AIR FORCE PLANE ARRIVED BEIRUT AT 1500 LOCAL APR 10. SAID 15 PERSONS DISEMBARKEK AND THAT AIRCRAFT DEPARTED 2 HOURS LATER CARRYING 45 PERSONS. Wafa CLAIMED US AIRCRAFT NORMALLY ARRIVE PERIODICALLY AT BEIRUT AIRPORT BRINGING US MARINE REPLACEMENTS FOR EMBASSY GUARD DETACHMENT. NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT APR 10 FLIGHT SMUGGLED AWAY MANY TIMES THE NUMBER OF GUARDS NORMALLY EXCHANGED AND CHARGED THEY HAD BEEN PARTICIPANTS IN ISRAELI ATTACK EARLIER THAT MORNING. Wafa COMMENTD: " THIS REFUTES ALL EFFORTS AT DENIAL OF AND ESCAPE FROM AMERICAN COMPLICITY MADE BY US SPOKESMEN, AND IT REVEALS FALSENESS OF CAMPAIGN OF ALLEGATIONS, FABRICATIONS AND PROTESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE MADE BY WASHINGTON TO DIVERT MASSIVE POPULAR ANGER WHICH DEMANDS STRIKING AT AND LIQUIDATING AMERICAN INTERESTS IN ARAB WORLD." Wafa ADDED IT WOULD REVEAL MORE SERIOUS PROOF OF US COMPLICITY IN APR 10 RAID IN DAYS AHEAD.

3. LEFTISH, PRO- FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR, IN REPORTING ABOVE STORY, NOTED LEBANESE " PROGRESSIVE" LEADER KAMAL JUMBLATT, IN PRESS CONFERENCE HERE APR 14, HAD ALSO ALLUDED TO " SUSPICIOUS" ROLE PLAYED BY US AIRCRAFT ON APR 10. JUMBLATT REPORTEDLY ALSO RENEWED HIS CHARGES OF " CRIMINAL" LEBANESE WEAKNESS IN RESISTING ISRAELI " AGGRESSION"

4. ENGLISH- LANGUAGE DAILY STAR, IN REPORTING ' ARAFAT' S EMBELLISHED CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY (BEIRUT 4313), QUOTED HIM AS VOWING " TERRIBLE REPRISAL" AND ADDING " THEY WON' T HAVE TO WAIT LONG". INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR REPORTED ' ARAFAT AND EGYPTIAN ENVOY HASSAN SABRI AL Kholi MET WITH PLO EX COM APR 13 TO " REVIEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS". MOST INDEPENDENT (BUT FEW LEFTIST) PAPERS CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM INITIAL SCALI STATEMENT IN REPORTING ON SC DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK.

5. EDITORIALY, LEFTIST, PRO- FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR EXPRESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IRRITATION AT US DENIALS OF COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID AND ITS

DEMANDS FOR CLOSING DOWN PALESTINIAN BROADCASTS. IN SARCASTIC PIECE ENTITLED " YOU ARE LIARS", PAPER SAID ARABS ARE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE USG REALLY LOVES PALESTINIANS, THAT TOTAL US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IS MERELY ARAB DELUSION, AND THAT " VIRTUOUS AND VIRGINAL" US EMBASSY AND AMERICAN FIRMS IN BEIRUT ARE STAFFED BY " HONEST" DIPLOMATS AND BUSINESSMEN. CALLED SCALI " LIAR" AND SAID AMERICANS, NOT ARABS, ARE "20 TH CENTURY SAVAGES AND BARBARIANS". PAPER CHARGED " IMPUDENT" US CALL FOR CESSATION OF PALESTINIAN BROADCASTS CONSTITUTES BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN ARAB INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THAT US HAD DECLARED WAR ON PALESTINIANS TO AVENGE KHARTOUM. IN SEPARATE EDITORIAL, MUHARRIR WARNED US INTENDS TREAT ARABS LIKE " RED INDIANS" BY SENDING TROOPS TO ME TO SEIZE OIL- PRODUCING AREAS. CALLED ON ARABS TO RESPOND BY STRIK- ING US INTERESTS EVERYWHERE.

6. COMMENT: LIMITED COVERAGE GIVEN TO SCALI STATEMENT IN LOCAL PRESS CAUSES US WONDER IF LEBANESE AMB GHORRA' S NBC INTERVIEW, IN WHICH HE CAST DOUBT ON CHARGE OF US COMPLICITY, WILL RECEIVE ANY BETTER TREATMENT HERE. AS EDITOR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT REGRETFULLY ADMITTED TO EMBOFF APR 14, LOCAL NON- LEFTISH PRESS DARES NOT GIVE STRONG PUBLICITY TO US SIDE OF STORY FOR FEAR OF FEDAYEEN RETRIBUTION.
DECONTROL 4/14/74.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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